

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENTI 03390 151305Z

61

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OC-05 CCO-00 PER-01 A-01 AID-05 SCS-03 SCA-01

SY-05 USSS-00 OPR-02 SR-02 ORM-01 IO-10 IGA-01 SSO-00

/104 W

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R 151059Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3848

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL UDORN

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 3390

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, EAID, US, LA

SUBJ: CALL ON MINFONAFF PHOUMI VONGVICHIT'S CHEF DE CABINET

REF: VIENTIANE 3367

1. BEING UNABLE TO SEE MINFONAFF PHOUMI VONGVICHIT THIS AFTERNOON AS HE WAS ALREADY FULLY BOOKED UP, I CALLED ON HIS CHEF DE CABINET SOUBANH, AN INTELLIGENT ST. CYR GRADUATE. I SAID I WANTED TO SEE THE MINISTER ON THREE SUBJECTS.

A. SAVANNAKHET. I WAS NOT CLEAR WHAT THE CABINET HAD DECIDED LAST NIGHT NOR WHAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS DOING TODAY TO RELIEVE THE SITUATION THERE. HE SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD DIRECTED COLONEL SOMBOUN VONGPHRACHAN (NEUTRALIST WHO IS VIENTIANE SIDE DELEGATE ON THE JOINT

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENTI 03390 151305Z

CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT (JCCIA) TO

GO TO SAVANNAKHET WITH EXPLICIT INSTRUCTIONS TO ENSURE THE SECURITY OF THE AMERICANS. AS REGARDS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE DEMONSTRATORS, THERE IS A TEAM FROM THE JCCIA ALREADY IN SAVANNAKHET WHICH WILL HAVE THAT RESPONSIBILITY.

B. RUMORS OF DEMONSTRATIONS. I SAID WE WERE RECEIVING FROM EVERYWHERE REPORTS THAT TOMORROW THERE WOULD BE LARGE-SCALE DEMONSTRATIONS AIMED PRINCIPALLY AT THE EMBASSY, USAID, AND PERHAPS CARS BEARING OFFICIAL BUT NON-DIPLOMATIC PLATES. (MOST USAID CARS CARRY THIS TYPE OF LICENSE PLATE.) HE SAID THAT THE CABINET HAD DISCUSSED THIS MATTER. THERE WERE TO HAVE BEEN DEMONSTRATIONS TODAY AND TOMORROW BUT THE CABINET HAD DECIDED THAT THERE SHOULD NOT BE ANY AND HAD DIRECTED THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF INTERIOR, DEAUNE, TO RESOLVE THE MATTER.

C. FUTURE OF USAID. I SAID THAT USAID ACTING DIRECTOR RAMSEY WAS PREPARING A SUMMARY OF ALL OUR AID PROGRAMS. WE WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE AN HOUR OF THE MINISTER'S TIME NEXT WEEK SO THAT WE COULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW HIM WHAT USAID IS DOING. QUITE SPECIFICALLY, WE NEEDED TO HAVE DECISIONS ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT AS TO WHETHER IT WANTED, AND WAS PREPARED TO ENSURE THE SECURITY OF, THE USAID PROVINCIAL OFFICES. I INDICATED THAT IN VIEW OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS, THE MATTER HAD BECOME URGENT. IF THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED IT DID NOT WANT THESE OFFICES IN THE PROVINCES, WE WERE QUITE PREPARED TO CLOSE THEM DOWN. HOWEVER, THESE OFFICES WERE FURNISHING TYPES OF AID WHICH AFFECTED VERY DIRECTLY THE LAO PEOPLE, E.G., AID TO REFUGEES, AND WE WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT THE GOVERNMENT UNDERSTOOD THE CONSEQUENCES OF ITS DECISIONS. HE THANKED ME VERY MUCH AND SAID THAT HE WAS SURE THE MINISTER WOULD BE HAPPY TO MEET WITH US.

2. COMMENT:

A. BASIC PURPOSES OF MY CALL WERE TO KEEP PRESSURE ON PHOUMI TO INSURE SECURITY AND TO EMPHASIZE THAT WE WERE QUITE PREPARED TO REVIEW THE QUESTIONS OF AID AND USAID MISSION.

B. NEWS FROM SAVANNAKHET (REFTEL) INDICATES THAT OUR COLLEAGUES ARE UNDER A FORM OF HOUSE ARREST BY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VIENTI 03390 151305Z

DEMONSTRATORS BUT ARE SAFE AND IN GOOD SPIRITS. WE SHALL SEND A PLANE TO BRING THEM OUT AS SOON AS THE SITUATION IS CLARIFIED.

C. AS REGARDS THE FUTURE OF USAID, WE ARE CONVINCED THAT WE SHOULD AVOID GIVING ANY APPEARANCE OF WANTING TO CLING TO MAINTAINING A MISSION OR PROVIDING AID. WE SHOULD PUT THE BURDEN OF RESPONSIBILITY ON THE GOVERNMENT TO DECIDE WHAT IT REALLY WANTED BEFORE WE DETERMINED

WHAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO DO. AT THE SAME TIME, WHERE  
SECURITY NO LONGER PERMITS ORDERLY OPERATIONS, WE ARE  
WITHDRAWING PERSONNEL AND CEASING TO OPERATE. UNLESS  
WE ARE DIRECTED OTHERWISE, WE PRESUME THAT THESE ACTIONS  
ARE WELL WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT'S POLICY GUIDELINES.  
CHAPMAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CITIZEN PROTECTION, HOSTAGES, ANTIAMERICAN DEMONSTRATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 15 MAY 1975  
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